

CONGRATULATING JASMINE
BABERS FOR RECEIVING USA
NETWORK'S CHARACTERS UNITE
AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jasmine Babers of Rock Island, Illinois, who is one of ten individuals nationwide to receive the USA Network's Characters Unite award this year.

Jasmine Babers, at a very young age, has shown an amazing amount of dedication, hard work, and drive. She is the founder and publisher of Love, GIRLS, a magazine that strives to build confidence and self-esteem in teenage girls. Jasmine's hard work has paid off as she was able to publish the first issue in 2012. Love, GIRLS has expanded its distribution over the past two years from Illinois to include Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, as well as the District of Columbia, reaching more than 5,000 young girls. Jasmine also has led local events, in conjunction with her magazine, that help bring attention to bullying and the dangerous effects that it can have on our youth.

The Characters Unite award is presented annually to ten individuals who through extraordinary efforts are able to combat hate, intolerance, and discrimination, as well as make significant contributions towards promoting greater tolerance, respect, and acceptance in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to know that individuals like Jasmine Babers are making a difference in our communities. Once again I would like to congratulate her on her momentous achievement and wish her luck with her ongoing efforts, as well as her upcoming collegiate career.

HONORING PARK LABREA NEWS
AND BEVERLY PRESS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press.

Park Labrea News and Beverly Press has been a local paper and critical presence in Miracle Mile, Hancock Park, Hollywood and West Hollywood since 1946. Park Labrea news and Beverly Press have a long and important history in our community. Residents of Park Labrea began distributing a newsletter throughout the apartment complex in 1946 and within a few months "Parklabrea News" was born.

In 1948, Joseph Duplain took over the newsletter and converted it into a newspaper. In the 1950s, Nan Dayhoff became editor and ran the paper for the next twenty years, publishing twice a month. In the 1970s veteran TV newsman Charles "Chuck" Riley acquired the paper.

In 1990, the newspaper was sold to the current publishers, Michael and Karen Villalpando. By June 1990, the Villalpandos had expanded the paper to a weekly installation that reaches more than 5,000 homes in neighborhoods in Los Angeles. In 1991, the circulation was expanded again and the name Beverly Press was added to the original Park Labrea News masthead.

Michael and Karen Villalpando have been the publishers for the last twenty-five years and have transformed the paper from a 3,000 circulation, bi-weekly newspaper, to a 13,000 paid circulation newspaper, delivered weekly with the Los Angeles Times. The Villalpando's goal has been to provide the best local news coverage to the residents of Park Labrea, Hancock Park, Miracle Mile, the Fairfax District, Hollywood and West Hollywood. They have proved extremely successful in their goal. Local community members look forward to receiving the paper every Thursday and rely on it to get global news and community happenings.

Michael and Karen Villalpando, through the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press, play a key role in sharing national, state, and local news within the community. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing Michael and Karen and the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press.

IN RECOGNITION OF RALPH
LESLIE BUDDY COLE, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ralph Leslie Buddy Cole, Jr. for a noteworthy life dedicated to public service. Mr. Cole passed away at the age of 80, having lived a selfless life as a veteran of the Texas Air National Guard, public servant, and civic leader.

Buddy was born on August 19th, 1934 and grew up picking cotton in Krum, Texas. His commitment to public service and civic leadership started at a young age, notably when he founded the Krum Young Citizens Club and subsequently served as its first president. Buddy's public service career included serving on Pilot Point's City Council, first by election in 1981 and again by appointment in 1986. Additionally, he served as Denton County Judge for 4 years after being elected in 1982 and then served as Denton County Commissioner for Precinct 1 after winning election in 1986. Buddy is deserving of recognition not only for his continuous dedication to civic leadership and public service, but also for the example he demonstrated in his personal life and character. Buddy was regarded throughout the community as a pragmatic problem solver, something that no doubt contributed to his success in public office.

Buddy is survived by his wife, Norma, his sons Alan and Leslie, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. I join his family and the community of lives he touched in celebrating the accomplishments of Buddy Cole. It

is my privilege to represent the 26th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 DISTIN-
GUISHED CITIZENS AWARD RE-
CIPIENTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I take this time to recognize the 2014 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, presented annually by the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization hosted a celebratory event on Monday, November 3, 2014, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Since 1992, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council has presented the Distinguished Citizen Award to individuals who have made a significant positive impact on the community in Northwest Indiana and across the state. This year, the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council honored Michael and Jill Schrage.

Michael Schrage, president and chief executive officer of Centier Bank, is a truly innovative business leader. Mike became the fourth generation of his family to own and operate the First Bank of Whiting, which was renamed Centier Bank years later. This family-owned bank has grown throughout the years, and today Centier includes over fifty branches in Indiana. Under Mr. Schrage's leadership, an award winning lender division was established, and the company has been named one of Indiana's best places to work for the past eight years. This is unquestionably due to Mike's value-based work ethic, and the importance he places on Centier's most important resource: its employees. Additionally, Mike gives much of his time and efforts to charitable endeavors, including the Saint Jude House, the American Red Cross, the YMCA, and the Boy Scouts of America, to name a few.

Jill Schrage is a true humanitarian in every sense of the word. She gives selflessly and passionately of her time and efforts to various organizations and civic activities throughout Northwest Indiana and beyond, including the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, TradeWinds, Speaking of Women's Health, the Girl Scouts of America, the Women's Association of the Northwest Indiana Symphony, Opportunity Enterprises, and the Valparaiso Art Advisory Committee, among others. For her truly exceptional devotion to such worthy causes, Jill serves as an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Boy Scouts of America Calumet Council and its 2014 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, Michael and Jill Schrage. For their lifetime of leadership and outstanding dedication to serving those in need, Mike and Jill are worthy of the highest praise.